

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 05128 241546Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /035 W
-----040565 242131Z /61
R 241455Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8083
INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN
AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, NI
SUBJECT: BACKGROUND ON THE STUDENT STRIKE

1. EMBASSY OFFICER AND DEPUTY DESK OFFICER VISITED THE UNIVERSITY OF IFE CAMPUS ON APRIL 21. ATMOSPHERE OF THE CAMPUS WAS CALM, IF TENSE. ACCESS TO THE CAMPUS WAS UNIMPEDED; HOWEVER, RIOT POLICE WERE SITTING IN PARKED TRUCKS ABOUT FIFTY YARDS FROM THE ENTRANCE. ALTHOUGH BOYCOTTING CLASSES, SOME STUDENTS WERE STILL ON CAMPUS. HOWEVER, MANY STUDENTS WERE SEEN ALONG THE ROADS WITH SUITCASES HEADING HOME. UNIVERSITY FACILITIES WERE STILL OPEN.

2. FACULTY MEMBERS SAID THAT RIOT POLICE HAD BLOCKED OFF THE CAMPUS THE PREVIOUS DAY, RESULTING IN A 'STATE OF SIEGE'. THERE HAD BEEN SOME VIOLENCE WITH SEVERAL CARS BURNED. POLICE HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY ROUGH. A MEMBER OF THE MEDICAL FACULTY TOLD US THAT HE WAS NOT ALLOWED BACK ON CAMPUS TO TREAT HIS PATIENTS. WHEN HE TRIED TO EXPLAIN, HE WAS THREATENED BY A RIOT POLICEMAN EXCLAIMING TO HIS FELLOWS, 'NOW THIS ONE WANTS TO GIVE EXPLANATIONS'. HE LEFT.

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3. WE SPOKE WITH JOYCE A. ALUKO, UNIVERSITY DIRECTOR OF BUDGET AND PLANNING WHOSE HUSBAND, DR. SAM ALUKO OF THE ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT, IS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES COMMISSION (NUC). IN DISCUSSING THE NUC DECISION TO RAISE THE ROOM AND BOARD FEES, ALUKO SAID THAT IN FACT THE THIRTEEN UNIVERSITIES

HAD PUSHED FOR A MUCH HIGHER INCREASE. NUC HAD ONLY
RELUCTANTLY AGREED AND THE LOWER SUM APPROVED COVERED
ONLY ABOUT FIFTY PERCENT OF ACTUAL COSTS.

4. MRS. ALUKO SAID THE REAL MISTAKE HAD BEEN THE
FMG'S 'POLITICAL' DECISION EARLIER TO LOWER FEEDING
FEES TO 50 KOBO FROM 70 KOBO. THEN, LATER TO
INCREASE THEM TO 1.50 NAIRA PER DAY BROUGHT AN AVALANCHE
OF PROTEST FROM STUDENTS WHO DON'T UNDERSTAND THE COUNTRY'S
FINANCIAL PROBLEM. SHE ADDED THAT THE PROTEST COULD HAVE BEEN
DEFUSED IF UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES HAD CONSULTED
WITH THE STUDENTS. THAT HAD BEEN DONE AT IFE, BUT
APPARENTLY NOT EVERYWHERE.

WYMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: BRIEFING MATERIALS, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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